

Pesticide Newsletter

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Some Useful Web Sites

General Pesticide Info:

- ◆ National Pesticide Information Center at <http://npic.orst.edu>
- ◆ Agrichemical information at http://scarab.msu.montana.edu/extension/mt_aginfo/MT_aginfo.htm

Pest identification and control:

- ◆ Plants National Database at http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi?earl=noxious.cgi
- ◆ PNW Insect Management Handbook at <http://insects.ippc.orst.edu/pnw/insects>

If you know of any useful web sites, please let us know at jakirkland@mt.gov, we will post them in the next newsletter.

Revised 2005 Worker Protection Standard How to Comply Manual Now Available

Submitted by Greg Murfitt, Worker Protection Specialist

The Federal Worker Protection Standard (WPS) requires agricultural employers/owners/operators to comply with its requirements when applying pesticides that have labeling that refers to the WPS. EPA has released the revised 2005 Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides How-to-Comply Manual that provides detailed information on who is covered by the WPS and how to meet the requirements. This compliance assistance tool has been updated to reflect amendments to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The updated manual will facilitate better protection of pesticide workers and handlers in agriculture from the potential risks of pesticides exposure.

Some of the revisions to the manual include:

- Change to the requirement that untrained workers are to be provided basic pesticide information before entering treated areas.
- Reduction in the number of days decontamination supplies must be available to workers after application and that the supplies are to be located together.

- Modification in size and language requirements for treated-area warning signs.
- Early-entry exception for irrigation and limited contact tasks with PPE.
- Optional use of separable glove liners beneath chemical-resistant gloves.
- Exemption for certified or licensed crop advisors and persons under their direct supervision.

The new 2005 WPS How to Comply (HTC) Manual supersedes the 1993 version. Changes to the WPS since 1993 have made the earlier version obsolete, and its continued use may lead an employer to be out of compliance.

The manual is available on the Web at: <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/htc.html>. Contact Greg Murfitt at 406-444-5400 or agr@mt.gov for further information about the revised manual and how to obtain print and/or CD-ROM versions of the manual, or for additional information about the WPS, please visit: <http://agr.mt.gov> or <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/twor.html>.

REMINDER Applicators and Dealers of 2005 Applicator and Sales Records Summary

Submitted by Janet Kirkland, Training/Development Specialist

The Montana Pesticide Act, Administrative Rule of Montana 4.10.207 (8) (a) (Applicator Records), and 4.10.504(5)(a) (Sales Records) states applicators and dealers shall submit to the department a report of their use and sales of restricted and general use pesticides for every fifth calendar year. The purpose in asking for this information is to develop a database determining where and how much pesticide is being applied in Montana. 2005 was the fifth calendar year. The completed reporting forms must be submitted to the department by January 31, 2006.

For additional information or forms:

Contact: Janet Kirkland

Phone: 406-444-3732

E-mail: jakirkland@mt.gov

Web-site: www.agr.mt.gov

Applicator Form: <http://agr.mt.gov/licensing/commercialapp.asp>

Dealer Form: <http://agr.mt.gov/licensing/agdealers.asp>

“Ag Alert”

*An MSU-ES-Integrated Pest Management and Great Plains
Diagnostic Network Program*

By Will Lanier, Insect Diagnostician, MSU-Extension, Bozeman, MT

Montana Department of Agriculture, along with other states throughout the West, is working with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to prepare crop risk assessments and response plans that will foster cooperation in the event of an emergency.

AgAlerts are an effort to provide County Extension faculty with up to date pest information. Included are responses to individual questions, contribution and observations from Specialists, Agents and consultants from around the state.

- Timely, pertinent information from regional sources is often included.
- Subscribers by managing their profile can choose what areas they want to receive information about.
- AgAlerts are archived, citable and searchable to ease future reference.
- Information arrives as a short email containing a link to the full document.
- Unsubscribed users can view AgAlerts at www.GPDN.org, but do not receive the email summaries.

AgAlert offers a tool for subscribers and authors to manage a stream of timely information providing tips on when and what to be looking for with cropland management practices.

Logon instructions: Note: If you are already receiving AgAlerts proceed to step 6.

1. To get started with AgAlerts, go to: www.gpdn.org
2. Click on “Login/Subscribe” under AgAlerts on the left side of the screen.
3. Click on “Setup a New Account” since you don’t have a user id yet.
4. Enter your email address under “user id” (ex: [peteh12@montana.edu](mailto:pete12@montana.edu)).
5. Enter a password containing a Capitalized letter, a lower case letter, and a number and complete the rest of the form and “Save.”
6. You can now login with your user id and password. Or, if you are unable to log in, Choose “I Forgot My Password” and enter your email address. The default password will be emailed to your address. Use the “My profile” options to change/update.
7. Select counties that you would like to receive AgAlerts for.
8. You can then click on Active, Archived or Future AgAlerts, or Search Options.

Contact Will Lanier, 994-5690 or wlanier@montana.edu for more information.

Dealer Short Courses

Submitted by Janet Kirkland, Training/Development Specialist

The department will be providing a series of pesticide dealer short courses this late spring and fall. These courses will be designed to target information relevant to persons who sell pesticide products to an end user. Some of the topic ideas to be discussed are the department’s disposal program, what is a salesperson and how they are trained, record keeping, displaying your products, and rodenticide sales.

These courses will be three to four hours of credit and will be held in six to ten locations through out the state. Should you have any ideas for topics at these sessions, please contact the department at agr@mt.gov. Look for more information in February.

Thank you for your participation in the recertification process.

2005 Pesticide Disposal Summary

Submitted by Kyle Wasson, Agricultural Specialist

The Department of Agriculture established a waste pesticide and pesticide container collection, disposal, and recycling program in the mid 1990s. The program is funded by license, permit, and special fees designated for the sole purpose of supporting the collection program and is made available to all persons in the state of Montana. A waste pesticide is any product (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, etc.) whether used in an agricultural environment or a home lawn and garden environment that become unusable as originally intended. The waste disposal program provides participants a safe and cost-effective means of disposing of products that can be hazardous to both human health and the environment.

The disposal program works to keep up with continual product cancellation, while still collecting long-canceled pesticide products. The average product age brought in 2005 was 18 years old, ranging from one month to 54 years. There were forty-seven participants that came to Townsend, Bozeman and Dillon disposing of 13,765 pounds of pesticides.

The department contracts with a toxic waste disposal company, which ships the waste material to appropriate facilities that dispose of the material in an environmentally safe manner.

A special thanks to Pam Converse (Broadwater County Weed District), Jack Eddie (Beaverhead County Weed District), Dennis Hengel (Gallatin County Weed District), Brad Jones and Rande Roth (MDA) and MSE Environmental for making the collections run so efficiently.

You can look forward to 2006 collections in the North Central part of the state that includes Cascade, Teton, Chouteau, Liberty, Pondera, Glacier, Toole and Hill counties. Collection locations and dates in June will be determined by mid January. For more information, contact Kyle Wasson in Helena at (406) 444-5400; by mail at Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Disposal Program, PO Box 200201, Helena, MT 59620-0201; or online at <http://agr.mt.gov/pestfert/disposal.asp>



Department Sponsored Initial and Re-certification Training This Coming Spring

Submitted by Janet Kirkland, Training/Development Specialist

Initial Pesticide training

Initial pesticide applicator and dealer training will be held in Lewistown, Montana, February 27 through March 2, 2006. This training session is open to any person who is new to the pesticide licensing process. We touch on most topics that are included in the Basic Pesticide Training Manual and general insect, weed and plant disease identification and management methods. The basic exam and the category specific examination are offered at the end of the training. Also being offered at the same time is Initial Aquatic applicator training and examination for both commercial/government applicators as well as private farm applicators. This training is mandatory for those persons needing to apply the restricted aquatic pesticides xylene, endothall, or acrolein. Contact the department at 406-444-5400 or web site www.agr.mt.gov for registration information.

Re-Certification Training

The pesticide categories up for re-certification training this spring are:

- ◆ Ornamental and Turf Pest Control
- ◆ Forest Pest Control
- ◆ Wood Treatment Pest Control
- ◆ Special Utility Pest Control

Ornamental and Turf/Forest Pest Control Training will be held at the Yogo Inn, Lewistown, MT March 13, 2006, and at the Ruby Reserve Street Convention Center, Missoula, MT March 15, 2006.

Wood Treatment/Special Utility Pest Control will be held at the Ruby Reserve Street Convention Center, Missoula, MT March 16, 2006.

Watch for your pre-registrations, agendas and additional information that will be sent out in February or visit our web site at www.agr.mt.gov.



This Issue's Noxious Weed

Submitted by Dave Burch, Weed Coordinator



Flowers are bright yellow, on long stalks, and have 5 petals.

Tall Buttercup

Ranunculus acris

Ranunculaceae (Buttercup family)

Category 2 Weed

Tall buttercup is a perennial forb that reproduces by seed only. It prefers moist to well-drained soils, and flourishes in wet ditches, meadows and along creeks. The stems contain a toxic juice that causes pain and inflammation in the mouths of grazing animals. The plant stems are erect, hollow, sometimes hairy, highly branched in the upper part of the plant, and grow up to 3 feet tall. The leaves decrease in size upward on the stem, with the uppermost leaves reduced to three or four narrow segments. Flowers are bright yellow, on long stalks, and have 5 petals. The upper surface of the petals is waxy, giving them a shiny, lacquered appearance. The tiny, brown-black seeds are carried easily by water. Tall buttercup is a prolific seed producer capable of invading undisturbed pastures. Its toxic juices make it unpalatable to wildlife and livestock, allowing the plant to rapidly invade and dominate grazed pastures, native meadows and stream banks. Drought significantly curtails this weed's spread, but a viable seed bank resumes invasion when wetter weather returns.

Pesticides in the Off-Season - IPM

Submitted by Dr. Patricia Denke



Begin "...explore new ways to **monitor**...Involving yourself in **public education**...begin a **mapping** program...compare the **resources** you used in the past year...looking at those all-important **records**, and **planning** the next season

Although most insecticide use takes place in the spring, summer and fall months, many of these materials remain with us throughout the year. It is important that they be stored correctly. Incorrectly stored materials may lose their efficacy, or worse, pose a health hazard to humans and other organisms.

To store insecticides (and other pesticides) correctly, make sure you read the label. Then, follow the directions. Reading and following the label can prevent a majority of the problems that can arise in pesticide use, and therefore, enormous numbers of headaches. If you are unsure of what the label means, there are people at the Montana Department of Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Office in your county, Montana State University, and the various chemical and consulting businesses that can assist you in interpreting the label language.

Involving yourself in **public education**, either as an educator or a student is also

vital. Now is also the time to learn more about new materials, or old materials you are unsure of, or approaches that are fundamentally different from your previous approaches. You can explore new ways to **monitor** for pests, to monitor abiotic conditions, record keeping, and all other aspects of integrated pest management. This may even be the time to begin a **mapping** program for your operation, or for key clients, if you don't already have one, or to upgrade your system if you do. It is the time to look at what you (or your clients) do, and what the alternative actions that you might take can be. Now is also the time to look at the bottom line, and compare the **resources** you used in the past year with the costs and the benefits that were derived, and to begin to look at projections for the next year. In short, it is the time for looking at those all-important **records**, and **planning** the next season, so that your actions can take a more **integrated** approach.

Confusion Regarding Rodents and Rodenticides

Submitted by Monty Sullins, Vertebrate Specialist

When talking with pesticide dealers and applicators, it becomes obvious that there is sometimes confusion in the interpretation of rodenticide labels. Problems include misidentification of species, incorrect application methods, and non-target or endangered/threatened species concerns when choosing a control for rodents.

The word “gopher” is a common name used to refer to several rodent species in Montana. Therefore, this word causes confusion about rodent identification when selecting the properly registered pesticide for rodent control. It is essential that the rodent be properly identified and called by their true name when selling, buying, or applying rodenticides. Many rodenticides are registered for use on specific rodent species. Rodenticides also have specific restrictions and pre-cautions on their effect to non-target or endangered/threatened species.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS

The following summarizes the most common rodents that are controlled by rodenticides in Montana:

- **Columbian ground squirrel** – Commonly found west of the continental divide – Products currently registered are:
 - **Zinc phosphide grain bait** that is not very effective on this species;
 - **Rozol grain bait** that can be used either as hand-bait or in bait stations;
 - **Burrow fumigants** such as ignitable cartridges or aluminum phosphide fumigants.
- **Richardson ground squirrel** – Commonly found east of the continental divide except for the south east corner of the state – Products currently registered are:
 - **Zinc phosphide grain bait**, apply prior to spring green up. To be effective, non-toxic oat bait (pre-bait) should be applied 2 or 3 days prior to application.
 - **Rozol grain bait** that can be used either as hand-bait or in bait stations,
 - **Burrow fumigants** such as ignitable cartridges or aluminum phosphide fumigants.
- **Northern pocket gopher** – Commonly found statewide –Products currently registered are:
 - **Zinc phosphide grain bait** can be used either by hand baiting methods or burrow building machines.
 - **Burrow fumigants** such as ignitable cartridges or aluminum phosphide fumigants,
 - **Strychnine grain bait** that is to be used only for pocket gophers by hand baiting methods or used in burrow building machines. **NOT FOR USE ON PRAIRIE DOGS, GROUND SQUIRRELS, OR OTHER RODENTS.**
- **Black-tailed prairie dog** – Commonly found in the eastern two-third of the state – Products currently registered are:
 - **Zinc phosphide grain bait**, apply when vegetation is dry and no longer green. To be effective, nontoxic oat bait (pre-bait) should be applied 2 or 3 days prior to application.
 - **Burrow fumigants** such as ignitable cartridges or aluminum phosphide fumigants.
 - **Rozol CANNOT be used for prairie dog control.**
- **Voles (field mice)** – Commonly found statewide – Product currently registered is **Zinc phosphide**.

For further information, contact the Montana Dept. of Agriculture in Helena, MDA District Field Offices or:

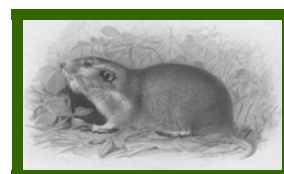
Monty Sullins, Vertebrate Pest Specialist
msullins@mt.gov
(406)652-3615



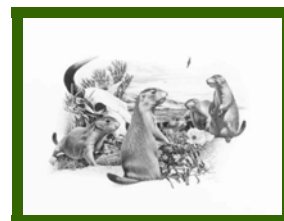
Columbian Ground Squirrel



Richardson Ground Squirrel



Northern pocket gopher



Black-tailed prairie dog



Voles (field mice)

PO Box 200201
303 North Roberts
Helena MT 59620-0201

Phone: 406-444-5400
Fax: 406-444-7336
Email: agr@mt.gov

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
<http://agr.mt.gov>

Up Coming Approved Recertification Training

Approved

January 24, 2006 * NWSGA Winter Seed Conference * **Reno, NV** * 2 Credits – (10) (39) (35) * Contact Person: Sheri Nolan at 509-585-5460

January 24, 2006 * AMAA 2006 Annual Meeting * **Great Falls, MT** * 4 Credits – (10) (39) (21) (30) * Contact Person: Boyd Morgan

January 25, 2006 * MABA/MGEA 2006 Convention * **Great Falls, MT** * 3 Credits – (10) (39) (21) (30) (35) * Contact Person: Pam Langley at 406-449-7391

January 26-27, 2006 * 2006 Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference * **Coeur d'Alene, ID** * 6 Credits – (10) (39) (34) (45) * Contact Person: Tamara Kirk at 800-942-4978

January 23-26, 2006 * NRCA Weed Control Seminar * **Indianapolis, Indiana** * 6 credits – (10) (39) (37) * Contact Person: Arlene Blessing at 765-494-7779

January 30-31, 2006 * AMTOP 2006 Annual Meeting * **Billings, MT** * 5 Credits – (10) (39) (34) (45) & 6 Credits - (10) (30) (40) (45) * Contact Person: Sharon Davis at 406-458-4702

February 2, 2006 * "Source" Seminars * **Spokane, WA** * 6 Credits— (10) (39) (34) (45) (33) (37) (55) * Contact person: Tracy Overacker at 509-928-4512

February 27—March 2, 2006 * Initial Pesticide Training * **Lewistown, MT** * No Credit * All New Applicators and Dealers * Contact person: Janet Kirkland at 406-444-5400

March 1, 2006 * Initial Aquatic Pesticide Training * **Lewistown, MT** * No Credit * All New Aquatic Applicators * Contact person: Janet Kirkland at 406-444-5400

March 13, 2006 * MDA Ornamental & Turf/Forest Pest Control ReCertification * **Lewistown, MT** * 6 credits – (10) (39) (34) (33) (45) * Contact Person: Janet Kirkland at 406-444-5400

March 15, 2006 * MDA Ornamental & Turf/Forest Pest Control ReCertification * **Missoula, MT** * 6 credits – (10) (39) (34) (33) (45) * Contact Person: Janet Kirkland at 406-444-5400

March 16, 2006 * Inter Mountain Roundwood Association * **Missoula, MT** * 6 RECDITS -- (10) (39) (41) (44) * Contact Person: Janet Kirkland at 406-444-5400